

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268

DSCF STANDARD MAIL LOAD LEVELING

Docket No. N2014-1

**RESPONSES OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNES MALONE
TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2
(QUESTIONS 1 (a), (c)-(e)
(February 5, 2014)**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Malone to parts (a) and (c) through (e) of Question 1 of Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 2, filed on January 29, 2014. The questions are stated verbatim and followed by the responses. A response to part (b) is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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February 5, 2014

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS MALONE
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1. The following question concerns vote-by-mail materials (including absentee ballots) sent directly to voters through the Postal Service by state, county, and municipal jurisdictions (Voter Mail).

- a. Please describe the methods (class of mail, mail product, entry method, etc.) used by voting jurisdictions to send Voter Mail to individual voters.
- b. Please estimate the percentage of Voter Mail sent by voting jurisdictions to individual voters that is DSCF Standard Mail. Please explain the basis of the estimate and the period of time measured, *e.g.*, FY 2012.
- c. Please describe the methods (class of mail, mail product, entry method, etc.) used by individuals to return Voter Mail to the applicable voting jurisdiction.
- d. Describe the effect of the Load Leveling Plan on Voter Mail, if any.
- e. How does the Postal Service plan to inform mailers that enter Voter Mail as DSCF Standard Mail of the change in service standards?

RESPONSE

- a. First-Class Mail and Standard Mail are the predominant classes. Depending on the content of a mailing, letters, flats and cards may be used to send information to voters. For First-Class Mail, either single-piece or a presort category will be used, depending on the nature of the mailing, the number of pieces mailed, the density of the mailing, and the sophistication of the voting jurisdiction's mail preparation operations. These factors also determine whether mail is entered via a Bulk Mail Entry Unit, deposited in a collection box, or presented at a retail window. For Standard Mail presented at a BMEU, volume, density and sophistication of the mail preparation operation will influence the presort category used.

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- b. [Response forthcoming]
- c. Single-piece First-Class Mail is the predominant method, with postage affixed by the mailer/voter. Some jurisdictions provide voters with Business Reply envelopes. Otherwise, some voters may elect to use Priority Mail or Priority Mail Express.
- d. No impact is anticipated on mail sent by voters as described in part , or on First-Class Mail sent by elections board or political campaign organizations to voters. DSCF Standard Mail entered on Fridays or Saturdays by these latter entities would be subject to the service standard changes associated with the Load Leveling initiative. DSCF Standard Voter Mail entered on Friday will be expected to be delivered by the following Tuesday. DSCF Standard Voter Mail entered on Saturday will be expected to be delivered by the following Wednesday. Please also see my response to Question 7(b) of POIR 1. As is the case today, local postal managers will apprise elections board and political campaign organization mailers of the priority of dispatch and processing associated with the mailers' choice between First-Class Mail and Standard Mail, and will endeavor to provide service to those who choose DSCF Standard Mail that is consistent with the service standards applicable to that product and the preferential status of First-Class Mail.

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RESPONSE to Question 1 (continued)

- e. Please see pages 18-20 of my testimony, USPS-T-1. In addition to the Federal Register notice informing the general public of any final rule change, I am told that a headquarters Elections Mail Task Force will be meeting to coordinate communications from each postal administrative district to local Postal Customer Councils (to which many local elections boards belong), and to work with the headquarters Consumer and Industry Affairs department to disseminate information to local elections boards and election campaign mailers through our Business Services Network, our Rapid Information Bulletin Board System, and local Bulk Mail Entry Units.